(d) The DG of the Force has powers to divert vacancies from one State to another if adequate number of persons are not available in one State.

Special assistance to Tamil Nadu

619. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that border States are given special assistance because of their vulnerability and need for patrolling etc.;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that Tamil Nadu is having a long open coast that is vulnerable warranting strict visit round the clock; and

(c) whether Government would provide special assistance to Tamil Nadu in view of the additional cost involved in protecting the coast, on the line of border States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There is no scheme for providing assistance to the border States in general, specifically because of their vulnerability and the need for patrolling.

(b) and (c) Government is aware of the vulnerability of the country's coasts including that of Tamil Nadu to illegal cross border activities. Assistance to Government of Tamil Nadu for protecting the coast will be possible after the coastal security scheme proposed for the coastal States has been finally approved by the Government.

Relief to tackle natural calamities

620. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to tide over the recurrent natural calamities like drought and floods, on different parts of the country in general and Andhra Pradesh, in particular;

(b) whether Government have set up any Committee to rush relief for the affected States in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Our country, due to geographical location and climatic conditions, is prone to various natural calamities including droughts and floods. The State Governments including Andhra Pradesh and concerned Ministries of the Central Government, through their programme, schemes and the traditional coping mechanism have been addressing the issue of reducing the impact of natural calamities. The Ministry of Home Affairs had advised all the State Governments to include disaster reduction and mitigation as a part of ongoing planning and development process.

(b) to (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities. The Central Government also supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support, where necessary.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, being the nodal Ministry, remains in touch with the affected State Governments during crisis, and coordinates emergency relief and response of the Central Government which includes the areas of search, rescue and evacuation, airdropping and airlifting, communication, transport, foodgrains and essential commodities, medicines, etc.

Funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) have been allocated to each State, based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, for meeting the expenditure on relief operations. CRF consists of 75 per cent Central contribution released in two half yearly instalments every year (1st May and 1st November). The remaining 25 per cent contribution is to be provided by the State Government. The State Governments are required to meet the expenditure for providing relief to the victims of natural calamities *viz.* cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood and hailstorm, as per the approved norms and items of assistance from the CRF. A Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State decides on all matters connected with the financing of relief expenditure. Where funds available in the CRF do not prove to be sufficient for meeting the expenditure on relief, in cases of a calamity of severe nature, financial assistance is also provided to the States from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).